

[*Rept. of the board of visitors*]

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City Document.—No. 26.

CITY OF BOSTON.

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LUNATIC HOSPITAL.



In Common Council, December 23d, 1841.

The Board of Visitors of the Boston Lunatic Hospital, submitted the following Report, the reading of which was dispensed with, and ordered to be printed for the use of the Council.

Attest, RICHARD G. WAIT, Clerk C. C.

1841 MAY 4

In City Council, December 23, 1841.

The Board of Visitors of the Boston Lunatic Hospital, who were "instructed to consider and report what alteration, if any, it is expedient to make in the Ordinance relating to that Institution,—and also the present condition of said Institution, and the expense of sustaining the same,"—having attended to the subject, ask leave to

REPORT:

The Ordinance in question relates mainly to two subjects,—namely.

1. The management of the Institution by the two immediate officers, the Superintendent and the Steward.

2. The visitation of the Institution by the Board of Visitors.

Upon the first subject, that relating to the immediate officers, the Ordinance undertakes to point out their respective *duties*,—giving to the Superintendent "the sole direction of the medical, moral and physical treatment of the patients, and of their regimen and diet," and the general superintendence of the whole establishment,—and assigning to the Steward "the charge of the grounds, buildings and appurtenances,"—and the duty of making all purchases and keeping the accounts,—and making him "in all things subject to the Superintendent." In this definition of the respective duties of these officers, though there may not be all the clearness and precision that might be desired, yet it might be difficult to make a change. And after all, the mode in which

officers so situated operate, depends much more upon themselves, than upon the precise form in which their duties are prescribed. And as no practical harm is known to be at present resulting from this source, the Board do not propose any change.

In regard to the household arrangements for these officers, the Ordinance provides that both shall have “apartments and board in the Hospital, for themselves and their families, free of expense to themselves.” Rooms have accordingly been assigned to each family in the centre of the Hospital, and three tables are provided at the public charge, one for the Superintendent and his family,—one for the Steward with his family and the attendants,—and the third for the patients.

Your Committee cannot but think, that it would have been a better system, to have enabled the Superintendent, either by means of a separate dwelling house, or by the construction of the centre part of the Hospital, to furnish his own board and live in his own way, fixing the salary accordingly. Then the Steward’s department would be reduced to supplying his own family and the attendants and the patients. But by the present mode, this department of supplying becomes complex. Economy of detail cannot be practised so well, nor responsibility be so accurately enforced. The more these matters can be simplified, the better they work. If therefore the arrangement were now to be made for the first time, it is the impression of the Board, that they would make the change suggested. But as an alteration in the Hospital as now arranged, would be requisite, the Board can only recommend the matter to future consideration.

2. Upon the subject of visitation,—the Lunatic Hospital, as is well known, is the only Institution at South Boston, the Visitors or Overseers of which are taken from the City Council,—the superintending Boards of all the others being chosen from the citizens at large. In consequence of the other duties of the members of the Board as at present constituted, the same attention cannot and is not bestowed upon this Institution, as the others receive. Where a Visiting Board has but a single public duty to perform, they give it more time and attention. The Institution under their supervision occupies more of their thoughts. It is *the* thing, by which their fidelity is to be tested, instead of *one of the things*. They can therefore watch it narrowly, and keep it right in its details, as well as generally.

On the other hand, by taking the Board from the Council, the Hospital is kept in nearer view by them, and they feel more immediately interested in it, than if a change were made in this respect. A very deep interest in it has always been evinced by the Council, and much good has resulted therefrom. The Board therefore, are unwilling as yet to propose any change upon this point.

In conclusion, upon this part of the duty assigned them, namely a consideration of the Ordinance regulating the Hospital,—the Board do not recommend that any changes shall be made in it at present. Instead of confining themselves to this simple assertion, however, they have ventured to submit the thoughts and considerations which have passed through their minds, in the discharge of their duty during the past year, in hopes of aiding in a measure, the investigations of their successors.

In regard to the present condition of the Hospital, so far as the inmates are concerned, it seems to be doing for them all that can be done. Of the *one hundred and two* patients now in the Hospital, *eighty seven* are old cases and hopeless of recovery. For these, of course, nothing can be done but to keep them comfortable. Of the remaining *fifteen*, which are recent cases, the prospect of recovery is stated by the Superintendent to be very favorable in *nine*, and doubtful in the remaining *six*. It will be perceived, therefore, that there are but a few inmates, for whom more can be done, than to supply their physical wants, and by judicious medical and moral treatment, to keep them in a tranquil state of mind. And the Board have uniformly found the Hospital well cleaned, warmed and ventilated, and all necessary care bestowed upon the patients. The attention of the officers and of the Board has been often turned to the subject of employing the patients in some useful work, and this as a matter no less of benefit to the lunatics, than of economy for the City. But there does not yet appear to be any thing in which they can be profitably employed, excepting the ordinary labor about the house, and upon the grounds. This is an important subject and is commended to the attention of future Boards. In the meantime, the Board take pleasure in stating that all the officers and attendants have appeared faithful in their duties to the inmates, and that in this respect the Hospital is in a satisfactory condition.

3. As to the expense of sustaining the Hospital,—the annual appropriation, as is well known, is \$12,000. Nearly that sum was expended the last year,

and there is no reason to believe that it will be less the present year.

By a comparison of the expenses of the establishments at South Boston, it appears, that the *gross cost* of each inmate of the House of Industry, including the children, is \$1,01 per week,—of the House of Correction, \$1,66 per week,—of the Lunatic Hospital, \$2,22½ per week. A table is appended to this report, shewing the items in the comparative expenditures of these Institutions.

At the Lunatic Hospital, about \$3,000, are expended upon nineteen officers and attendants, exclusive of the Superintendent, the number of which cannot be reduced. The residue of the expenditure is for the items of clothing, fuel and subsistence, and the great item of subsistence is of two kinds, one for the wings, and the other for the centre of the house.

In the matter of diet for the patients, a more liberal one has hitherto been allowed in the House of Industry, upon the ground of its importance as a part of curative treatment. But when so great a proportion of the present inmates are hopelessly insane paupers, and as the number of these increases, as it naturally will in such an Institution, there would seem no reason for a distinction in diet from that of the House of Industry. The Board have accordingly suggested the expediency of trying the experiment of equalizing the two, which the Superintendent is about to do.

In the matter of subsistence for the centre of the house, the expense has somewhat increased. Under the present system, which has already been mentioned, it is extremely difficult for a Board of Visitors to regulate the details of expenditure in this depart-

ment. It is impossible to prescribe rules for the Superintendent's table. Reliance must be placed upon the good judgment and economical habits of the officers, in regulating that part of the expenditure which immediately concerns themselves. It is the opinion of the Board that there has been an undue increase of expense in supplies for the centre of the Hospital. But they trust and believe that a simple allusion to the subject, will be sufficient to call increased attention to this point, and that all connected with the Hospital and interested in its success, will appreciate the duty of introducing into its arrangement, all the economy that is consistent with the promotion of its great objects.

In behalf of the Board,

JONA. CHAPMAN, *Chairman.*

HOUSE OF INDUSTRY.

Gross amount of expenditures, - -	\$30,090 00
Average number of inmates, -	571
Average expense of each inmate per week, for food, clothing and supervision, - - - - -	\$1 01

Officers and Salaries.

1 Superintendent, - - - -	\$1,000 00
1 Assistant Superintendent, - -	650 00
1 Assistant Farmer, - - - -	300 00
1 Teacher of Boys, - - - -	600 00
2 Female Teachers, at \$156 each, -	312 00
3 Female Assistants, at \$156 each, -	468 00
1 Clerk to Directors in City Hall, -	800 00
1 Chaplain, - - - - -	400 00
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11	\$4,530 00

Diet.

Beef Soup, &c., 3 times a week.

Fish, &c., once a week.

Beans, &c., once a week.

Rice and Molasses, once a week.

Baked Beef, once a week.

350 lbs. of Beef four times a week, at 4 cts. per lb.

The number of children in the House for the past year has been about 200, which deducted from the average number of inmates 571, leaves 371 consumers of meat, *without making any deduction for the sick* in the Hospital.

HOUSE OF CORRECTION.

Whole amount of gross Annual Expenditure, - - - - - \$25,132 55

Average number of inmates - 291

Average cost of supporting each inmate, \$1 66

Officers and Salaries.

1 Master of House, - - - \$1,000 00

1 Clerk of Board, - - - 700 00

1 Chaplain, - - - 500 00

4 Deputies, at \$300 each, - - 1,200 00

3 Matrons, at \$200 each, - - 600 00

10 Officers at \$4,000 00

Diet.

Beef, Bread and Vegetables, daily.

230 lbs. of Beef at $4\frac{1}{2}$ cents, every day.

LUNATIC HOSPITAL.

Whole amount of Expenditure, - -	\$12,000 00
Average number of inmates, -	103
Average cost of supplying each inmate,	\$2 22 $\frac{3}{4}$

Officers and Salaries.

Steward and Matron, - - -	\$600 00
4 Male Attendants, at \$15 per month,	720 00
4 Female Attendants, at \$2 50 per week, - - - -	520 00
2 Male Assistants, at \$14 per month,	336 00
1 Housekeeper, at \$3 00 per week, -	156 00
1 Cook, at 2 50 " " -	130 00
1 Assistant Cook, at 2 00 " " -	104 00
2 Female Assistants, each at \$1 50 per week, - - - -	156 00
1 Seamstress, at \$2 00 per week, -	104 00
1 Washerwoman, at \$3 00 per week,	156 00
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19 Officers, at an expense of	\$2,982 00

*Summary.**No. of Officers. Amount of Salaries.*

House of Industry,	11	\$4,530 00	571 inmates.
House of Correction,	10	\$4,000 00	291 inmates.
Lunatic Hospital,	19	\$3,982 00	103 inmates.

The Salary of Superintendent of Lunatic Hospital and Physician of all the Houses, omitted in *all*.

Diet of Lunatic Hospital.

Beef Soup, twice a week.
 Baked Beef, twice a week.
 Corned Beef, (cold) once a week.
 Salt Fish, once a week.

Beans and Pork, once a week.

50 lbs. of Beef, at $5\frac{1}{2}$ cents per pound.

House of Industry, 1,400 lbs. of Beef weekly, at
4 cents, - - - - - \$56 00

House of Correction, 1,610 lbs. at $4\frac{1}{2}$ cents, per
week, - - - - - \$72 45

Lunatic Hospital, 250 pounds, at $5\frac{1}{2}$ cents, per
week, - - - - - \$13 75

Price of Board in Lunatic Hospital in Augusta,
from \$2 to \$3 per week.

Price of Board in Lunatic Hospital in Brattleboro',
from \$2 to \$3 per week.

Price of Board in McLean Lunatic Hospital,
\$3 00 per week.

Price of Board in Lunatic Hospital in Hartford,
\$3 50 and upwards.

Price of Board in Lunatic Hospital in Nashville,
\$1 25, (a receptacle.)

Price of Board in Lunatic Hospital in South Boston.
\$2 22 $\frac{1}{2}$, (a receptacle.)

Price of Board in Lunatic Hospital in Worcester,
\$2 50 per week.

The salaries of Superintendent, Assistant Physician and Steward and Matron, at Worcester, are paid by the State of Massachusetts, and are not assessed upon the board of the patients—amount \$3,300

Boston Lunatic Hospital.

Family of Superintendent,

Himself and wife,	-	-	2
2 children,	-	-	2
1 Servant, - - -	-	-	1—5

Family of other Officer,

Steward and Matron, -	-	-	2
2 children, - - -	-	-	2—4
Assistant Physician, -	-	-	1
Assistant and Attendants,	-	-	17—18

 27